

**Legislative Testimony
Appropriations Committee
Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments
HB 5037 An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,
2023
February 23, 2022**

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. Simon Y. Bangiyev. I have been practicing dentistry in Connecticut for almost 10 years. I am an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with two offices located in Stratford and Norwalk. We focus on providing quality and personalized care to all patients. I am available for emergency dental care to the community and remained opened throughout the pandemic to assist patients with dental emergencies and pain and to prevent them from seeking care in the over burdened emergency room. Our practice provides care for a large pediatric population as well, many who are insured by the Medicaid program.

I am writing in regards to the Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments for the Department of Social Services and the proposed increase to adult dental Medicaid reimbursement rates.

The costs of running a dental practice have significantly increased over the past 5 years and especially over the past 24 months due to the pandemic and national inflation crises. Unfortunately, reimbursement from the adult Medicaid program have remained stagnant since 2008. Given the rising costs many practices, myself included have considered removing ourselves from the Medicaid panel as it has become financially difficult to maintain an office with rising costs and serve the Medicaid patient population.

As you are aware, dentist participation in the Medicaid program is extremely important. Patients rely on our practice to treat oral and dental pain in a timely manner which prevent them from seeking care in emergency departments and hospitals. The Medicaid population is more likely to seek care in these environments if services are not covered which contributed to an increased cost to the system. Additionally, dentists can provide preventative care which further reduces overall cost to the system.

My goal is provide high quality, compassionate and outstanding dental care to all patients, and having increased reimbursement for services rendered will allow me to continue to meet these standards.

I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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